

WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 2

THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

JUNE 2001

Nisqually Asphalt Plant Paves Over Opposition

Megan Davis

Lakeside Industries wants to build a hot-mix asphalt plant in the Nisqually basin, and they just might get their way despite opposition from Basin residents, the Nisqually tribe, and local environmentalists.

Lakeside Industries currently runs several asphalt plants in our general area, with a local plant up by the Hawks Prairie county landfill. Asphalt plants are usually situated right next to gravel mines, but the mine by Lakeside's Hawks Prairie plant ran out of gravel. Now Lakeside is trucking gravel over daily from the Holroyd Gravel Mine in Nisqually, and wishing they could move in next door to Holroyd to get rid of hauling expenses. Two years after applying for a permit, their wish for a permit has been granted by the Thurston County Commissioners, despite the opposition of the Nisqually Tribe, environmentalists and many local residents. Different groups have different reasons for working on this issue, but they all agree on one thing: the asphalt plant could do a lot of harm to the area.

Why try to stop the plant?

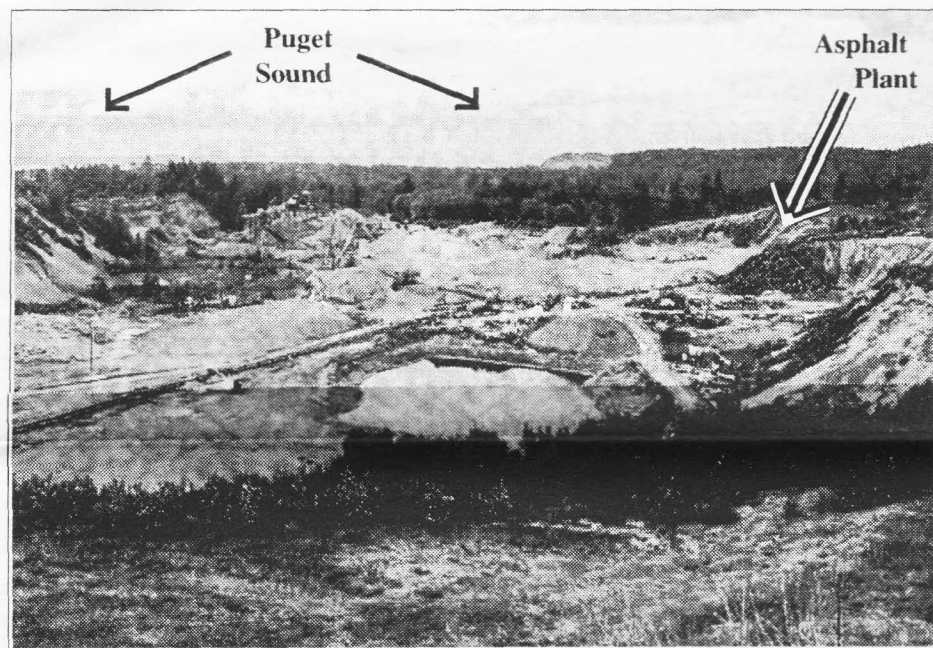
First of all, there is the issue of water contamination. The asphalt plant could potentially poison Olympia and Lacey's drinking water and the wetland-based wildlife of nearby Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, as well as local wells, fishing holes, and irrigation water. Chemical solvents used in the process of creating asphalt will inevitably leak into the ground and nearby Medicine Creek, which flows to McAllister Creek and then the delta. The extent of potential contamination is a matter of debate. While county officials and Lakeside alike are optimistic about the proposed plant's environmental impact, some locals and environmentalists are more skeptical. For Nisqually tribe treaty fishers, who support their families on the fish they catch downstream from the asphalt plant site, the question of impact is a serious matter. And at this point there have been no serious studies on water quality or other environmental impact, so there's no way to tell what it might be.

This is too bad, considering how many people it could affect. Nisqually Valley is home to McAllister Springs, the drinking water source for 79% of Olympia and Lacey homes. According to the City of Olympia's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2000, "The McAllister Aquifer, which feeds the springs, is more vulnerable to contamination than our other aquifer sources because there are fewer protective layers of soil between the surface and the deep

aquifer." Nobody I talked to could say whether it looked like chemical solvents or spilled petrochemical materials from the asphalt plant might contaminate the aquifer. But in the wake of the Nisqually earthquake, which caused shifts and chasms in the valley floor, some question what will happen if there's a toxin-filled asphalt plant on the valley floor the next time the earth shrugs.

Another environmental concern has to do with the asphalt fumes a plant

and rural, which means farms and trailers, houses and convenience stores are fine -- but not an asphalt plant. Keeping Nisqually agricultural and rural has taken a lot of work, and a lot of money -- the '87 Nisqually River Management Plan and the '92 Sub-Area Plan are both county-created policies aimed at preserving Nisqually's rural character. In '96 the county went so far as to spend about 2.5 million dollars total to purchase development rights from local



Photos by Hali Panetier and Megan Davis

would generate. This plant would produce an average of one hundred truckloads of asphalt every 24 hours, and would send up a plume from its smokestack while in production. According to OSHA, asphalt fumes are toxic -- people who breathe in these fumes regularly tend to get headaches, fatigue, throat, skin and eye irritation. Human studies

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have reported lung, stomach and skin cancers following chronic exposure to asphalt fumes, although studies are inconclusive so far. And to make things even more interesting, Nisqually is a 500-foot valley with what's called a "bowl effect." This means that it's especially sensitive to air pollution, because air tends to get trapped between the valley walls.

Now, on to the social concerns of the asphalt plant opponents. The Nisqually Basin is zoned as agricultural

accessory use to a gravel mine. The Holroyd Mine's presence there is itself an exception -- it got grandfathered-in as far as zoning, because it has operated at the same site on Dergin Road since the 20's. The difference between the two exceptions, though, is if the county grants Lakeside a permit, they'll be allowing further industrial development, rather

than just tolerating industry that's already there. And it's a funny thing how exceptions can be interpreted as precedents. In April, the Thurston County hearing

examiner ruled that Lakeside's permit should be granted. About two weeks later, Remax Realty changed the wording on its For Sale sign in a nearby lot from "residential/commercial" to "commercial/industrial." Coincidence? Could be.

And there are more reasons to oppose the asphalt plant: some residents are protesting the proposed asphalt plant due to concerns over the noise, traffic, and odor. The plant would generate an average of a hundred truck trips every twenty-four hours through the area. That may sound dramatic, but it's actually only ten trips more than what the Holroyd Mine generates now when it sends gravel over to the Hawks Prairie Lakeside plant. However, the thing about asphalt production is that you have to make it right before it's used, so Lakeside has to deliver the asphalt at all times its customers want, day or night. In the case of state contracts, Lakeside will generally have to keep the plant going at night, because that's when the state generally fixes roads. So a lot of the traffic and noise will happen through the night.

Fighting the "special use" permit

The county process for reviewing and deciding on Lakeside's special use permit application has been going on for over two years now. One person who has opposed the plant through the whole process is Donna Vantiem, Nisqually resident and worker at the Trading Post. She first found out about the plan by reading the announcement in *The Olympian* -- which was published two days before the public comments period ended. Early on, she and other local activists focused on generating letters and personal testimony in public hearings. But after a few months they became discouraged by how quickly their views were dismissed since they didn't speak the legal vernacular that would make their claims sound legitimate. At that point the organization Friends of Nisqually scraped together enough funds to hire a lawyer.

It is an interesting phenomenon you'll find in processes like this, where basically you need to hire experts to be taken seriously by your local government. And an expert will generally cost thousands of dollars. With this being the case, it's usually the side that has more money to hire lawyers and scientific experts that's going to sound more legitimate and therefore get their way. Another difficulty faced by environmental and public health activists in particular is that an agency sometimes dismisses their concerns as not having strong enough scientific evidence -- and then states that it doesn't see a need for more scientific research to

(Continued page 7)



WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Jerome Johnson	

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.

Letters, briefs, etc.

May Day Letter Rejected by The Olympian

I sent this to the Olympian. They apparently don't want it. Maybe you would like it better:

On May Day, our children walked over to the corner of Harrison and Division and made a garden on the saddest spot in town -- a patch of green surrounded by pavement and doomed to be smothered by another gas station. The land came alive again, and there was some rain and some sun for the new garden; and we were all given this beauty for a day (for those of us not too dead inside to see it.) And of course they came and killed it, like they've killed almost everything, everywhere. But at least we had it for a day.

You foolish *Olympian* newspaper people! Why couldn't you have given us at least a picture of this garden, instead of the bulldozer that destroyed it? Why can't you ever give us anything but shame and sorrow? What's wrong with you?

Craig Oare

"Beat the Heat"

A Legal training for Students, Activists, and Community Members
12 p.m. Saturday, June 2nd
The Evergreen State College
Location: CAB 108

"Beat the Heat" is a participatory workshop designed to enable activists and organizers with a greater understanding of our legal rights. Topics covered include how *not* to waive your rights, effectively dealing with search warrants, arrests, and interrogations, activist legal strategies, and surviving police intimidation. Workshop partici-

pants will learn how to assert themselves when interacting with law enforcement officers by participating in interactive role-plays, including: casual interaction with the police, search warrants, arrest warrants, interrogation, coping with parole officers, surviving the good cop - bad cop routine and several others. The "Beat the Heat" workshop is facilitated by former political prisoner, and attorney, Katya Komisaruk who played an active role in defending WTO protesters.

Following the training, join a discussion about the strategy and tactics of current police repression and ways to resist it. This workshop is a must for activists of all stripes. All students and community members are welcome to attend. Sponsored by the Evergreen Prison Action Committee (PAC) for more information, call (360) 866-6000, ext. 6724

AIDS Walk

Sunday, June 3rd at 12pm
Sylvester Park in Olympia

The walk is sponsored by UCAN (United Communities AIDS Network). Join us for this very important event. Registration will begin at noon and the walk will begin at 1pm. If you are interested in doing the walk or need pledge sheets, please call 352-2375.

Home Rule Charter

The Home Rule Coalition announces the release of a Thurston County Home Rule Charter petition on **Wednesday, June 6, 7pm, at The Olympia Center.** All interested citizens are invited.

(Continued page 15)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, June 22nd

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, June 25th

6:30pm at Olympia

Timberland Library

Everyone Welcome!

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☐ Catalog/Index Listing...\$1; back issues...\$1/each (while supplies last)

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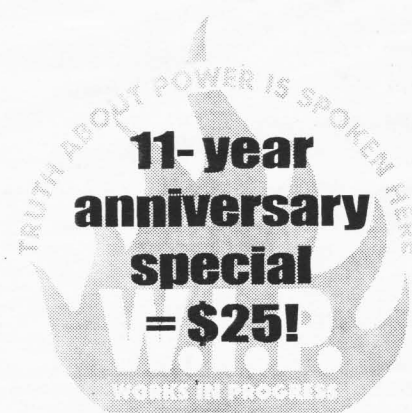
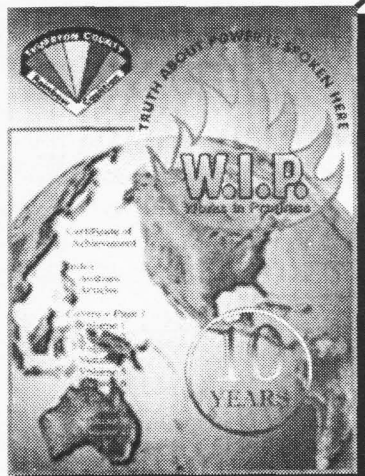
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JUNE 2001

ECHELON

For Whom Are They Spying?

- A global spying network capable of eavesdropping on millions of phone calls, e-mails and faxes a minute. Its powerful voice recognition capability filters billions of international calls for key words, voices, and word patterns. (The UK version has the "names and slang used by the Irish Republican Army).
- Developed during the Cold War from a 50 year agreement between the US and Britain to monitor communication and share information gathered, Echelon now includes Canada, Australia, New Zealand and, to a certain extent, Italy and Turkey.
- Echelon is run by the US National Security Agency and paid for primarily by the United States. Its main headquarters is at Fort Meade, Maryland and mum is the word regarding the number of employees it employs, but it is the state's largest employer. In fact, NSA has hinted that "if it were an industrial company it would be on the Fortune 500 list."
- There are no legal safeguards, no policies on what may or may not be "hoovered up". The French government claims that Echelon is used for commercial espionage which former CIA director James Woolsey has confirmed. Of course, US officials adamantly deny this charge.
- In the sixties and seventies, Presidents Johnson and Nixon used Echelon to gather information on 7,000 US citizens and 1,000 US organization that opposed the Vietnam War. That, they would have us believe, could never happen again. Interestingly enough, Microsoft, IBM and 'a certain large American microchip maker' have been accused of "providing product features which allow for the interception of information."

Sources: BBC News; Popular Mechanics, April 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Based on what is known about the location of Echelon bases and satellites, it is estimated that there is a 90 percent chance that NSA is listening when you pick up the phone to place or answer an overseas call. Jim Wilson, Science Ed. for Popular Mechanics			Echelon Listening Centers New Zealand Australia (2) Japan Germany England (2) In U.S.A.: West Virginia Colorado Washington St		1 1919: Rosa Luxemburg found in German Canal 2000: Fed appellate panel agrees with the denial of an asylum hearing for Elian	2 1924: Congress grants citizenship for Native-Americans 1997: McVeigh found guilty in the Oklahoma City Bombing
3 1903: 1000s of miners go on strike in Arizona 1999: US/Canada sign agreement to jointly manage Pacific wild salmon runs	4 1972: Angela Davis acquitted 1998: Mariners announce ballpark to be named Safeco Field; Safeco paid \$417 mil	5 1905: NY Clergymen declare Russians more pagan than Japanese 2000: FCC approves AT&T's purchase of MediaOne	6 2000: Urban institute study claims teens are more likely to refrain from risky behavior than any time during the last 10 years	7 1997: Presidential advisory panel recommends outlawing human cloning for 3 to 5 years 2000: Federal judge orders Microsoft to split	8 2000: EPA bans the pesticide Dursban 2000: WA state Dept of Ecology releases a new version of shoreline rules	9 2000: Artist Jacob Lawrence dies 2000: Fed appeals court overturns ruling clearing way for Makah whaling
10 1999: WA state Supreme Court limits the rights of sexual predators to appeal their confinements at a special state facility	11 2000: 2 flight attendants/4 passengers left plane over concerns about the plane's safety in a newspaper report of the same day	12 2000: Ecology informs Miller Brewing in a letter of difficulties it will have in building its own wastewater treatment plant	13 2000: WA Dept of Ecology fines US DoE \$200,000 for failing to complete required assessment of double-shell tanks at Hanford	14 2000: Federal appeals court rules the FBI agent, who killed Vicki Weaver at Ruby Ridge standoff, is immune from prosecution	15 2000: Bill Gates is still the world's richest man 2000: WA Supreme Court rules CPS can be liable for mishandling a child-abuse case	16 2000: DoE announces 2 missing hard drives containing nuclear secrets from Los Alamos were found behind a copy machine
17 1963: Supreme Court bans the Lord's Prayer public schools 1999: World leaders make commitment to rebuild Kosovo	18 2000: Los Angeles Times poll show more than 2/3 think decision to have an abortion must be left to a woman and her doctor	19 1912: US government adopts the 8-hour day for all of its employees 2000: Supreme Court bars student lead prayer before games	20 2000: Fed judge sends the Microsoft antitrust case to Supreme Court 2000: Oly City Council votes not to fund killing of geese	21 2000: Hackers take over Nike's Web site, call for activists to shut down the World Economic Forum in Melbourne	22 2000: Center for Science in the Public Interest says US should rethink it approval of olestra after Canada rejected its use	23 1947: Infamous Taft-Hartley Act 1964: Burned empty station wagon of 3 missing civil rights workers found
24 1999: Washington state rejects a request from the Seattle Mariners for more money to help cover cost overruns of Safeco Field	25 2000: Ralph Nader is nominated Green Party presidential candidate 2000: McDonalds will not open in Seattle's International District	26 2000: Supreme Court tosses out the right of Californians to vote for any candidate they want in their state's primary election	27 2000: 300 new parking meters in downtown Olympia are activated 2000: The Olympia City Council rewrites its protest ordinance	28 2000: Elian returns home to Cuba 2000: US Supreme Court upholds the Boy Scouts' ban on gay leaders	29 1995: Supreme Court rules that the government has right to stop property owners from destroying the habitat of endangered species	30 1999: Federal government threatens to fine WA state for giving some too many food stamps and short-changing others

Part I of a 3-part series

Media, Democracy, and the Internet

Sarah Maden

The new value system that was sold in the forties and fifties was designed to fuel the most massive expansion of the US industrial and marketing sectors in history. The "American way of life" became an advertising theme; it drew an explicit equation between how much you consumed and how American you were. During the Truman-Eisenhower years, the American ideal of consumerism was directly juxtaposed with Russia's emphatically nonconsumerist stance. In the

which benefits all people. Technical innovation promotes democracy, freedom, and leisure. Technical and scientific progress will spread around the world and relieve all people of the awful toil that has oppressed them since the dawn of time. Someday, every place will look like the World's Fair. It is inevitable. You can't turn back the clock."

(Mander, 23)

With this passage, in his book, *In the Absence of the Sacred*, Jerry Mander challenges the role of technology in our lives. This cynical viewpoint echoes the genuine zeal of computer enthusiasts.

The corporate-owned media is threatening democracy and freedom by neglecting individual liberty and privacy on the Internet in search of its eternal, empty goal, profit.

1950's, buying a washing machine was a blow to communism.

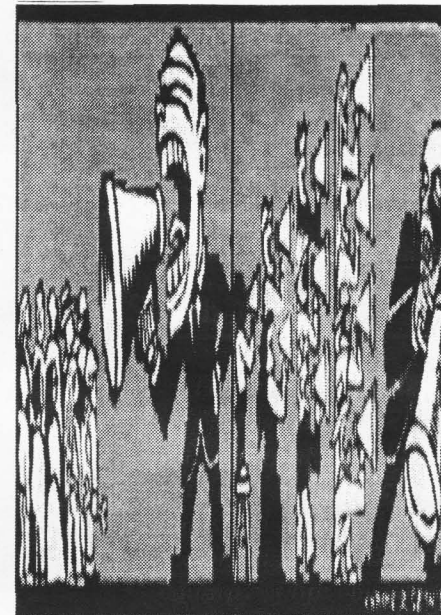
This value system incorporated key attitudes. Technological innovation is good. It is always good. It aids health. It saves labor. It is the engine that drives economic growth, which in turn drives the American standard of living upward,

The Internet is becoming pervasive, shared internationally, and is exposing a wealth of information to anyone who accesses it. Many believe that the Internet "will set us free" through shared, accessible information. Yet, Mander is quick to make the connection between technological innovation and economic growth and is wise to criticize the notion of this coupling benefiting Americans and all people by promoting democracy, free-

dom, and leisure.

Why? Because this is the age of the corporation. While the Internet may be heralded as an equal ground for all free press, the mass media is still in power and is still corporate-owned. The engine of technological growth, which is driving economic growth internationally, is fueled by our corporate-owned media infiltrating the Internet with a false message of democracy, freedom, and leisure through consumerism and the "American way of life." Computer firms are presently seeking the "killer application" "that will define the Internet as a commercial medium", not as a vital means of communication. So, in actuality, the corporate-owned media is threatening democracy and freedom by neglecting individual liberty and privacy on the Internet in search of its eternal, empty goal, profit.

"Every major newspaper chain is now part of a larger media conglomerate". Just six Hollywood studios are the hubs of vast media conglomerates, owning combinations of television networks, TV show production, television stations, music companies, cable channels, cable TV systems, magazines, newspapers, book publishing firms, and more. Ben Bagdikian, author of *Media Monopoly*, estimates that today about ten firms dominate "the entire US mass media from newspapers, books, magazines, to film, radio, television, cable, and recorded music". The list includes Time Warner, Disney, Viacom, Seagram, Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation,



Sony, General Electric, NBC, and AT&T. Each of these big ten firms owns numerous small corporations, each with an agenda to increase profit through consumerism. This media oligarchy is already using its power by designing media for "the richest one-half to one-third of the population" by choosing topics that do not threaten corporate power, and through the biased coverage of corporate interest.

This information lead us to one conclusion. We must review and access new technologies as they develop. We must set limits to their commercial development. The most crucial question concerning the Internet as a vital media tool is not how technology will develop but how the process will be managed, or the lack thereof. We must insist on maintaining easily accessible information despite the existing media oligarchies, software monopolies, massive commercialization of the Net, "cookie" personal profiling, and the ranking preference of search engines. These issues all threaten our individual liberty and privacy as users.

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*Up Front***St. John (the Attorney General)****Jerome Johnson**

I was planting my garden the other day, and Sundown came over to help. We talked about the the Bush Administration.

"Now, this is The Limit," he growled. "Have you heard? John Ashcroft, the Attorney General, is now leading 'morning prayer devotions' every morning. Bible study. In his office. At eight in the morning—on our time. Taxpayer time. Time we pay him to be working. Oughtta start calling him 'St. John.'"

What's wrong with that? Joe Lieberman made no secret of his faith,

ours."

I read that he's always done this, all of his public life.

"No excuse," Sundown said, opening a bag of potting soil. "He says the meetings are 'open to all employees of the Department.' Great camouflage—he's smart enough to know that people are going to be riled, and with that figleaf he can deflect any charges of being exclusive."

But anyone of any faith can attend, and attendance isn't mandatory.

"Any faith?" Sundown scoffed. "How generous! But he'll control the agenda, all the time. Just more camouflage, man. Reality is, he knows that only

required to enforce a Constitution which clearly keeps church and state separate.

"And not everybody who believes in God has an urgent need to exercise it in the workplace. And what about folks who are just as devout but not Christian? No matter what he says, how do you think the Muslims or the Native Americans or the Buddhists or the Wiccans are feeling? Especially when we look at how they're usually treated by many Christians.

"Another thing. He SAYS attendance is voluntary—but come on, man, let's get real. He's the boss. He makes the policy—informal or not—and sets the tone. Everyone knows who and what makes The Man happy."

That's certainly true everywhere I've worked.

"Right on. So even though it's 'voluntary', how 'voluntary' is it really? When we look at who gets promoted and who doesn't, I guarantee that attendance at these meetings will be a factor. I bet that those who pray will be those who get paid, catch my drift? He won't have to say it out loud—the climate he's creating will speak for itself. Discrimination based on religion—how ironic, considering all the whining the fundamentalists do about them being persecuted."

But as the boss, doesn't he have the right to set whatever policy or tone that he wants?

Sundown grinned and leaned on his shovel. "No, Mr. Devil's Advocate, and I'll tell you why. Because it's the Government. Because it's not a private company for profit in business. These are OUR employees, on OUR time, doing OUR business in offices WE entrust to them to carry out good things for ALL Americans—not just fundamentalist Christians. Actions speak louder than words. Even though Ashcroft verbally assures us as a nation that he'll do right by everyone, by holding these Bible studies he's really saying to the conservatives, 'Don't worry. I'm your special friend. Just like the NRA has an office in the White House, you've got an office here. For instance, maybe the Department will be too busy—fighting terrorism or something—to seriously investigate if womens' clinics start blowing up again. Maybe we'll consider that that should be handled at the local level.'

"And didja know that St. John's faith is visible in real, tangible ways? The word 'pride' and the phrase 'no higher calling than public service' have been prohibited from official speeches and correspondence which carry Ashcroft's signature. Why? Because due to his personal religious belief, pride is a sin and God's work is a 'higher calling' than public service." He shook his head sadly. "I wish he'd go be a minister in a church of his own somewhere, and leave the rest of us in peace."

In the Congo, Pres. Joseph Kabila allows political parties to form.

In Iran, Pres. Mohammed Khatami receives a visit from Fidel Castro.

In California, citizens are bracing for a long, hot, dark summer.

And in Olympia, a hapless Legislature still struggles to put a budget together during a long special session.

Which Is Real?

by Frank Hoffman

Trees unfurl their leaves in another green Spring, while the president mumbles about an energy crisis. Flowers open to the sun. Migrating birds call to each other in the faint, white, early morning light.

Stores advertise this transition, trying to create a need to buy. Thin women in magazine ads seem caught in a dream about dying. My ten-year-old grand-daughter, a short, slim fairy princess who hides her transparent wings folded into her back, with arms not much further around than a broom handle, worries about her weight and talks about being a model, gazing off with her sad eyes.

Waterslides down Garfield Creek, talking to itself or to me, to any listener walking by, about the present, this moment, and the difficulty of seeing it, in the moving water.

My friends go to meetings and talk earnestly to each other about what must be done: to end the child labor that made our shirts; to stop the felling of old, tall trees; to include the poor in the circle. Unwilling to believe we, as a people, are tolerating such a cynical, foolish president.

Women begin to put on summer dresses. Men develop silly smiles. Children haul tricycles out of garages and shriek with glee down the driveway.

They stop the ferry in the middle of Admiralty Inlet, off Port Townsend, to have a funeral, put ashes and wreaths and bright, red, flowers into the water. The assembled old people silently say goodbye. The winds and rain of May seem to hold off a moment for this pausing. And I go on to hear about the adventures of my son in Eastern Europe. The plains of Whidbey Island lie before the Spring as they have for hundreds of years.

The sun is bright, the air cold on my arms. The faces of women hold both joy and disappointment. This season of becoming encourages both. Whatever begins, ends. What is in the middle is often as silent as the blossoming flower. No government rules these motions and changes. We did not build them somewhere.

Such warmth as we can find, we owe each other. Our smiles, the reward. Spring lets reason float back to its dark libraries. Life bubbles up from the ground.



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Book Review

Black, White and Jewish

Wendy C. Ortiz

Rebecca Walker. *Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2001.

So by now the backlash against literary memoir is old news, if you read the writerly periodicals and even the not so writerly. Much space has been given to questioning the need, the market, the space, even the appropriateness of the memoir genre (interesting, too, that many of these questions are lobbed at memoirs written by females). I've read more than one critic who wonders how it is that anyone under the age of sixty could or should write a memoir or autobiography.

Rather than give much more space to this narrow viewpoint (or, the more ex-

arrives with a rather revolutionary idea (at least in the mainstream literary world)—that this is an “autobiography of a shifting self.” Not an “autobiography of a life” or even a definitive autobiography, but one that will even shift before your eyes.

On its surface, Walker's particular racial, gender, and socioeconomic realities may be what primarily constitute her “shifting self.” She is perhaps best known as the daughter of feminist writer and activist Alice Walker (and perhaps to a younger, politicized generation as the founder of the Third Wave Foundation, a national feminist activist organization). She describes herself as a “Movement Child,” born to a black mother and Jewish father during the civil rights movement of which they were both active participants.

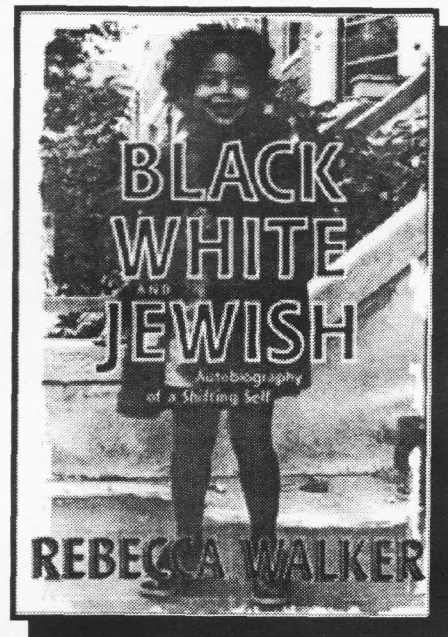
This placement undergoes many shifts as Walker gets older—she experiences herself at times not white and not black, or both, or something completely

“I find my map without a traditional trajectory,” she writes, “too fragmented for a linear narrative.”

pansive question of what drives this particular viewpoint, with its inherent restrictive and *shushing* qualities), let's assume that people enjoy a good story. Let's also assume that there is inherent value in people's life stories. And when their stories tackle important social issues that touch all of our lives (whether we admit it or not), well, then, we've got a jewel amongst us and let's not wish it (or discourse it) away. Rebecca Walker has a story to tell. She has chosen to tell it, calling it an autobiography. And she

different, as when she portrays herself to acquaintances as Puerto Rican during her adolescence. Walker also experiences shifts in class status, most notably when her parents divorce and she must spend her life alternating between the rich, mostly white private schools her father enrolls her in in New York, and the alternative, more multicultural schools her mother enrolls her in in the Bay Area.

The shifting also occurs within the complexities of her two families—her father remarries and enjoys an upper-middle class existence with his white Jewish wife and children; Walker's mother, by now a burgeoning success as Rebecca gets older, spends more time away on book tours and writer/activist work, leaving



Rebecca in the care of relatives and even neighbors.

Walker is not afraid to describe the more painful and confusing moments of her life as she negotiates the boundaries of gender, race, and class head-on. As a third wave feminist might, she describes her sexual experiences with an eye for inquiry into what moved her, what felt authentic, and what did not. We are also treated to stories of Walker's friends' lives, stories that are equally engaging and as elemental to Walker's autobiography as her own life. What is most striking, perhaps, is the form her autobiography takes, the shifting it undergoes to tell this thoughtful and engaging story of her experience. With supreme descriptions, she deftly describes the utter physicality of her losses (which include being separated from her mother for long periods of time, and the loss of friendships often due to race, class or gender lines), as well as her achievements (her ability to shift successfully, her proclivity for organizing and her desire and work for social justice in later years).

Rebecca Walker's autobiography, then, goes beyond telling a story. “I find my map without a traditional trajectory,” she writes, “too fragmented for a linear narrative. There is always a direction.” She captures the essence of what is true for all of us: that we are not static but dynamic; we are malleable and ever-changing, that our stories are not cut into stone but always shifting, rich in contradiction and beautiful in all their complexities: “There is never a dead end, never a path that does not make me more a human being than I was before. I am always moving. I am always in life, walking.”

Consumer Culture Kills

-- Busted! --

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced today that criminal charges have been brought against a 41-year-old Los Angeles, Calif., man for importing children's toys that violate federal law. The government filed 17 criminal counts against Steve Thai, alleging that he violated the CPSC's small parts requirements. Thai faces over four years in federal prison and \$85,000 in fines if convicted on all 17 counts.

Thai is alleged to have operated Super Rambo, a now-defunct business that imported toys, including toy trucks, racing cars, planes, wind-up robots, and trains. Despite repeated notice from the CPSC that he was violating the law, it is alleged that Thai continued to import toys for three years. Over 120,000 toys imported by Thai are alleged by the government to have failed to meet federal safety standards. Toys with small parts are a choking hazard for children under 3. In 1999, there were 118,000 children treated in hospital emergency rooms due to toy related incidents, resulting in 16 deaths.

-- Recalled --

Child Craft Industries, of Salem, Ind., is voluntarily recalling about 4,300 changing tables. Some changing table joints were not properly glued and can separate, presenting a fall hazard to babies. Child Craft has received six reports of the changing tables falling apart, including one report of a baby starting to fall from a collapsing table when she was caught by her mother. No injuries have been reported. (866) 423-3114 or www.childcraftind.com.

Unilever Home and Personal Care USA, of Greenwich, Conn., is voluntarily recalling about 150,000 Snuggly Teeny Bean Bears with a nightcap and pom-pom. The yellow pom-pom can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. Unilever Home and Personal Care USA have received one report of an infant who put the pom-pom in his mouth, gagged and began to choke before his mother removed the pom-pom. (800)-598-5005 or Snugglytime.com.

Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., is recalling about 55,000 basketball sets to replace the nets. Some of the nets have enlarged openings. If children put their heads into these enlarged openings, the net can get tangled around their necks and they could strangle. (800) 247-9395 or www.fisher-price.com.

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp., of Brookfield, Wis., and **DEWALT Industrial Tool Co.**, of Baltimore, Md., are recalling about 58,000 electric drills. The switches on these power tools, which were manufactured by Eaton Corp., of Cleveland, Ohio, can stick. The drills can continue to operate after the trigger is released, posing a risk of injury to consumers with one report of a hand injury. Call (866) 473-2288.

Drinkmaker of Sweden AB is recalling about 4,000 home soda-making machines. Components inside the soda machine can break apart, posing a serious risk of lacerations to consumers who can be struck by shrapnel. There have been three reports of incidents: a 7-year-old boy suffered lacerations to the neck and arms that required hospitalization; a 44-year-old man suffered multiple fractures and a laceration to his right hand; and a 52-year-old man suffered lacerations to his right hand and chin, a fracture of the little finger and contusions to the stomach. Call The Soft Drink Company, of Seattle, Washington, toll-free at (877) 438-7632.

Canon U.S.A. Inc. of Lake Success, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 60,000 Faxphones. The Faxphones are combination plain-paper copiers and facsimile machines. A component failure can cause the Faxphone to catch on fire. Canon U.S.A. received five reports of Faxphones catching on fire and causing damage to the machines. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves Canon Faxphones with model number B640. For more information, consumers should call Canon at (888) 280-7858 or www.cusa.canon.com/consumer.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or injury, call: CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or <http://www.cpsc.gov/talk.html>

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The Friends of Nisqually and the Nisqually Tribe appealed again. This appeal will be decided in early fall by the Board of Commissioners, after a period where people who've already testified get to make more statements. If you have testified or written letters to the county about the asphalt plant before, you can submit comments up until July 18th. If you haven't been involved before and would like to say something to the Board of Commissioners, go ahead and mark September 10th on your day planner -- that's the date for the one remaining

Department of Justice to Investigate Lacey Police Practices

WIP News Service

After months of public statements about possible police misconduct in Lacey, the Department of Justice is going to review the Lacey Police's practices. At stake is the integrity of the department in dealing with people of color: profiling, discrimination and harassment.

Citizens have repeatedly complained to the police and the Lacey City Council about issues relating to their family members. They further demonstrated their desire for Police Accountability by picketting in the pouring rain on April 28th along College Street, near Lacey's City Hall and Police Department

These recent activities have got the interest of the Department of Justice as well as the American Civil Liberties Union, who both plan to review the allegations.

Problems citizens have faced is a lack of response and process in filing complaints against the police. Through the Freedom of Information Act, complaints that have been filed against Lacey officers are telling -- especially those lodged by officers of other jurisdictions. Citizens currently have to go to the Police Department for complaint forms.

Lacey City Councilmember Jim Weber raised the issue of Lacey possibly having a Citizen Review Board for police complaints. Such a proposal was made to the Olympia City

public meeting on the matter. But beyond continuing to follow the process laid out by the county, opposers of the plant seem unsure of what to do now. Two things are for sure, though: at this point, it would be very helpful for interest to be shown by a larger community than has been involved so far; and pressure would have to be brought to bear on the Board of Commissioners, who will be asking us to re-elect them soon enough. It may be late in the process, but it's not too late to get involved. Of course, as



Pickers demonstrate their desire for Police Accountability in the pouring rain on April 28th along College Street, near Lacey's City Hall and Police Department

Questionnaire:

1. Have you or anyone you know been mistreated by the Lacey Police?
2. Do you know of anyone who has felt racially targeted by the police?
3. Do you think Lacey has a problem with racial profiling?(police pulling you over because of your skin color)
4. Do you think the Lacey Police could have a better relationship with the community?
5. Do you feel comfortable filing a complaint against the police with the Police?

Please answer this questionnaire by calling 360/455-3204 or send it to CopWatch PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507 (include your name and #).

Council in 1996. Olympia may now be seriously implementing such an accountability mechanism as a recent Study on Police Accountability indicated a lack of trust in the police.

Help Now!

You can help gather anecdotal evidence to be forwarded to the Department of Justice in their investigation of the **Lacey Police Department**. Please answer the questionnaire below; and have all your friends/family who have had interaction with the Lacey Police do so too. The more stories we can gather, the more evidence there will be to give a real complete picture to the practices of the Lacey Police.

long as the cities, county and state continue to build and repair roads, and as long as developers develop, there will be a need for asphalt. And without a functioning gravel mine adjacent to it, Lakeside can't keep its asphalt plant where it is now. It seems like they're probably going to pick up and move somewhere. But should it be the Nisqually Basin, the only undeveloped river estuary of the Puget Sound, home of several organic farms, adjacent to Nisqually tribal lands, upstream and

upwind from a refuge that harbors several endangered species, above an aquifer that thousands depend on for drinking water? Last fall during campaign time, the Board of Commissioners agreed unanimously that the answer to that question was "No." A year later, with the appeal on their table, we'll see whether they feel the same way.

For more info on the environmental aspects of this issue, see the June edition of the Greenpages. Also watch for a TCTV special on the opposition to the asphalt plant in July. To get involved or ask questions, call Donna Vantiem at 413-1645. 

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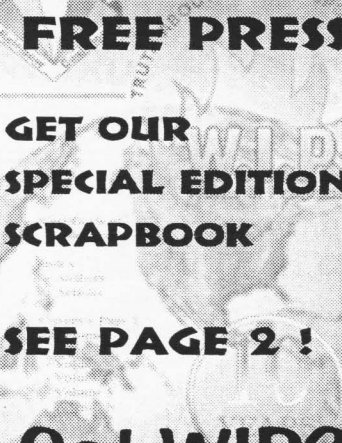
Dynamic grassroots forest protection non-profit seeks Membership/Volunteer Coordinator

The mission of the Gifford Pinchot Task Force is to advocate for conservation of ancient and native forests, ecologically significant areas, and the regional biodiversity in southwestern Washington with particular focus on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The Task Force serves as an informational and educational resource on forest ecosystems of southwest Washington through a variety of avenues including our newsletter, public meetings, hikes and field trips, presentations and other grassroots outreach, and interaction with other local, regional and national conservation organizations.

Application deadline is July 1, 2001

To apply, send resume and cover letter to:
Susan Jane M. Brown, Executive Director,
ATTN:Membership/Volunteer Coordinator
Search, Gifford Pinchot Task Force
P.O. Box 11427 Olympia, WA 98508
OR <susanjanebrown@yahoo.com>

- ◆ General responsibilities for this position include maintaining, expanding and engaging our membership; and managing and involving volunteers.
- ◆ Qualifications include excellent organizational, interpersonal, and writing skills; positive attitude and good sense of humor; self-starter and ability to complete tasks without direct supervision; multi-tasker; computer literate in Word, Outlook, MS Excel, and eBase; and a demonstrated commitment to environmental preservation and positive social change.
- ◆ Compensation is \$18,000–24,000/yr., depending on experience and full/part time commitment.



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Got WIP?

MAY DAY

Tristan Baurick

IN RETROSPECT

Protest of corporate oppression? Celebration of the season? Excuse to party in the streets?

Take your pick. Mix and match. Whatever you come up with, you're likely to have some or all of what makes May Day a tradition on the rise in Olympia.

May Day began as it did last year, with a 12:34 p.m. gathering at the Harrison Avenue Value Village. As with last year, streets were blocked, people danced, commuters fumed, drums banged, guitars strummed, a guerrilla garden took root and a good time was had by nearly all.

Turn out at the Value Village parking lot seemed low at first, thanks to the dismal wet weather. Some avoided the downpour by stopping in at Vic's for coffee and pizza to go, while a crowd mashed itself tight under the awnings of Rainy Day Records, giving the impression that few had gathered for this year's celebration. But as the rain cleared, a larger, less huddled, crowd burst into the growing sunshine and onto the streets.

Police officers stood ready, not knowing what part of town this year's party would claim. Joined by the hard-pedaling Critical Mass bikers, the 300-strong May Day procession marched a wide circle through west side streets, temporarily blocking the main arteries that service the city's conglomeration of restaurant chains, Big Box Super Stores, and strip malls.

THE PARTY BEGINS

Rounding back to Harrison and Division, the crowd stopped abruptly. The party began. A small station wagon equipped with generator, turntable, and speakers rolled into Division Street from the Day and Night gas station. Techno music started to thump and a throng of trance-dancers quickly surrounded the little Subaru.

Foursquare courts took shape with folks lining up for a game many hadn't played since their schoolyard days. One girl crouched down on Division's margin line to fold paper into origami cranes. Others turned the street into a vast canvas, drawing flowers and planets with blue and pink chalk.

Two men dressed as super-heroes, one wearing a yellow cod-piece and lightning make up, the other with polka-dotted mask and Super 'S' emblazoned on his chest, surveyed the crowd with hands on hips, capes blowing in the wind.

"We are here to help," said one. "On these large occasions we figure it best that we attend, to watch over everyone...to watch over the police and make sure they are here to enjoy."

When asked to reveal their secret identities, the other exclaimed "End of

interview!", flung his silver cape over his shoulder, and darted away.

On a curb, far from loud dance music, Torrey Vent sat strumming a guitar and chatting with people more than half his age. A sign on his old straw hat read "Will Sing For Cookies".

"I came to May Day to be with the crowd," he said, adding that, as a retired carpenter and machinist, May Day's tradition of celebrating worker's rights has always meant a lot to him.

"We've come a long way as to how workers are treated. It used to be that when you were hurt on the job you'd just crawl off and starve. Now there's workman's comp, the eight-hour day, and more fairness in the workplace. That's also why I'm here."

Across from Vent a Food Not Bombs folding table sprang up, offering bananas, bagels, and copious amounts of golden apples.

As they ate, the crowd was treated to a spirited reading of *The Lorax*. Standing on a table with book held high, a man identifying himself as Pan read Dr. Suess' classic tale of deforestation and over-consumption.

"You can't beat the truth," Pan said after his performance. "That's why I try to read *The Lorax* to every crowd, and I think they dug it in a great way."



photo by Tristan Baurick

THE GARDEN

At the border of the blocked-off street, about half of the party-goers plunged their hands into the dirt to transform a privately-owned vacant lot into a community garden.

Destined to be the site of a new gas station, many of the gardeners said their vision for the lot would better serve Olympia.

"This is a way to show the community how this land could be used," said Cliff Drummond as he dismantled the large sale sign facing Harrison Ave.

"I'd normally dread being [around this part of town], but, working on this garden, I've never had so much fun here."

Using pick axes and shovels, the gardeners hacked all day at the tough soil. Plants with dangling roots found new homes, as May Day Green Thumbs hauled in loads of transplanted flowers, herbs, and vegetable plants. Planting boxes made of 2x4s took shape throughout the garden. Gardeners dumped sacks of compost, along with heaps of dirt, giving vegetable seeds a comfortable place to start. Under wide archways of bent branches, a curving path of flat stone was laid, leading into near acre of new farmland.

THE LONE PROTESTER

Not everyone in the crowd was having fun. With megaphone in one hand and cigar in the other, Dan Andersen entered the party yelling, "I am here to protest your protest!"

Angry over last year's event, which shut down the intersection of Black Lake Blvd and Cooper Point Road, Andersen wandered the street party blasting the participants.

"I speak for the people of this city who are sick and tired of this!" he said.

Many May Day revelers danced around Andersen or playfully teased him. A few engaged Andersen in short, lively arguments.

After a young woman chalked a large anarchist symbol on the back of his rain coat and another slid a banana into his pocket, Andersen's cigar-chomping, blustery countenance took a turn.

"I'm not here to hurt anybody and

nobody's gonna hurt me!"

Andersen's voice shook as he ordered the youngsters around him to back off. Andersen made his exit from the May Day party not long after.

CRACK DOWN?

More excitement was on the rise. At around 4 PM the DJ spinning records announced he'd caught wind of riot police gathering nearby. Soon after, a group of police yanked the cord to his generator.

Squad cars closed in while an officer told the crowd over a loud speaker that the street must be cleared. No one budged. The cars moved closer, stopping a dozen yards from the party. The officer repeatedly issued his final warning. The crowd became defiant, its collective attention now directed at the police. Many chanted "Whose Street? Our Street!" while others in facemasks



photo by Tristan Baurick



Top page: Warnings by police to disperse fires-up a defiant crowd.

Left: Guerrilla Gardeners of all shapes and sizes pitch in.



photo by Tristan Baurick

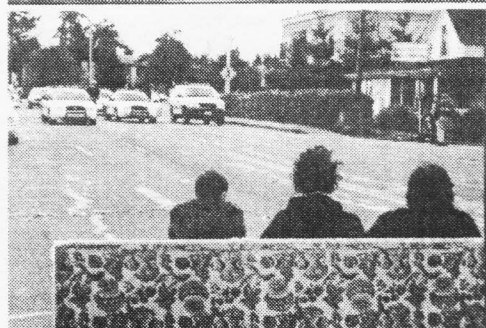


photo by Wendy Ortiz

"Smoke break at the Division Street Lounge" (and the reverse angle)

challenged the officers to act.

One man ran to the police bearing a gift: a large box of donuts. The peace offering was not accepted.

Suddenly groups of armor-clad squads rushed from behind trees and buildings. Armed with handcuffs, pepper-spray, pellet guns, and long batons, the police quickly convinced the full crowd to move off the street.

Some argued with the stone-faced line of riot cops, while others sang to them. One young woman, refusing to leave the street, was arrested and escorted away.

Moments after being intimidated off of Division, the majority of the crowd spilled onto Harrison, en route to downtown.

ON THE RUN

For over an hour the procession wandered aimlessly through the heart of downtown. Occasionally the march paused at major intersections. At the



photo by Tristan Baurick

Above: May Day blocks 4th Ave & Washington Street. Only a Dial-a-Lift bus is allowed to pass.

crossroads of Capitol and 5th Ave, some in the group decided it was time to figure out where they were headed.

"Who wants to go to the Capitol Building?" a girl asked the crowd. "They'll definitely gas us there!" someone yelled back. "I say we surround *The Olympian*!" said another.

A melee of suggestions and questions erupted. One girl garnered a strong cheering response to her question: "Who wants to go back to the Garden?" But someone countered it with: "Who wants to stay here?" And yet another asked, "Who wants to help me drink this beer?"

Some tried to organize a vote; others attempted to establish a speaking and listening order.

"Ok! Only the person holding this mask can speak! Everybody else has got to listen!" a young man yelled as he passed around a large hand-made mask.

But before a consensus was made, a large group was already heading off for the Garden. Soon, everyone else followed.

As the procession meandered up Harrison Hill, two rectangular phalanxes of riot police formed in front of the 5th Ave KFC. The contingent of police began a lock-step march behind the Maydayers, banging out a unified beat with clubs against leg armor. Many fast-food patrons came outside to see the performance.

"What is this, a Nazi invasion?" chuckled a middle-aged man with a steaming drumstick still in hand.

FULL CIRCLE

Ending up where they started, a smaller group of May Day participants returned to the garden. The police soon caught up and formed a line to prevent any further partying in the streets.

With the sun on its way down, about seventy people added finishing touches to their newly planted plots or relaxed on nearby couches, originally brought in to block traffic.

Just after 7 PM the police filed back into their busses. And the remaining May Day crowd, tired from a long day of planting, dancing, and marching, wandered home.



photo by Tristan Baurick

Strings sing in the middle of the May Day garden



photo by Tristan Baurick

Angry citizen protests the Street Party

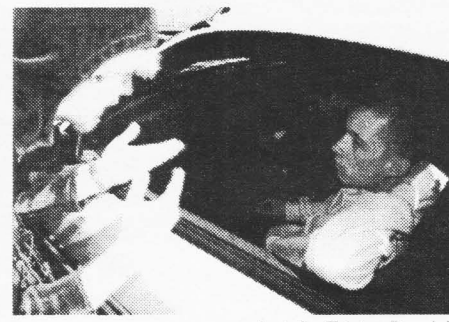


photo by Tristan Baurick

Man in bear-suit discusses May Day with teen in sports-car



photo by Tristan Baurick

One wants to talk philosophy, the other just wants him off the street. & Facing off where the street meets the curb.



photo by Wendy Ortiz



photo by Tristan Baurick

At 5th Ave and Capitol Way the May Day Procession tries to decide where to go next

MAY DAY

Woolman, Revelations and the Global Economy

Deric Young

What is all this fuss over May Day? As it stands now, the vegetable and strawberry garden planted by the protesters is bulldozed and the owner of the property has a permit to build a gas station and mini-mart. Isn't the City of Olympia marvelous? The local pharmacist next door, an advocate of private property rights, faces competition from Long's Drugs and Rite Aid, and if history tells us anything, he will eventually be forced out of business. Letters to the editor debate whether there is a message in the May Day protests.

Although we may not all agree on tactics or message, some, particularly among our younger generation, are experiencing a crisis of conscience over the growing economic inequity and violence in the world. I agree with Lesley Thompson, in her column "On The Left", that many students don't get it. Fortunately a few do. A young man is arrested for standing in a garden, on that sacred promised land of "private property." He and they are calling us to stand in a place where we see the world differently, a "wild space," as theologian Sallie McFague calls it.

It is a place where Jesus, Luther, John Woolman, Sojourner Truth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Gandhi, Rosie Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Nelson Mandela previously stood. There are also many names that have escaped the brutal glance of history, who standing in this place, suffered the consequence of their choices. It grieves me that most had no choice. The slaves of early America, to whom our document of repose, the Constitution, granted partial personhood, children in Iraq, Palestine, Kosovo and the inner cities of America come to mind. Their graves leave no legacy.

John Woolman, eighteenth century Quaker abolitionist, experienced a crisis of conscience in his twenties when he was called upon to witness a bill of sale involving the purchase of another human being. He decried excessively long workdays, long before the Haymarket and Centralia massacres, and cautioned employers not to work others too hard. Woolman made a powerful analytic connection in arguing that the institution of slavery emerged from the reckless pursuit of a life of ease and luxury. John Woolman also saw that the network of greed and over consumption that sup-

ported slavery had the domino effect in the natural world - mistreating post horses from human selfishness.

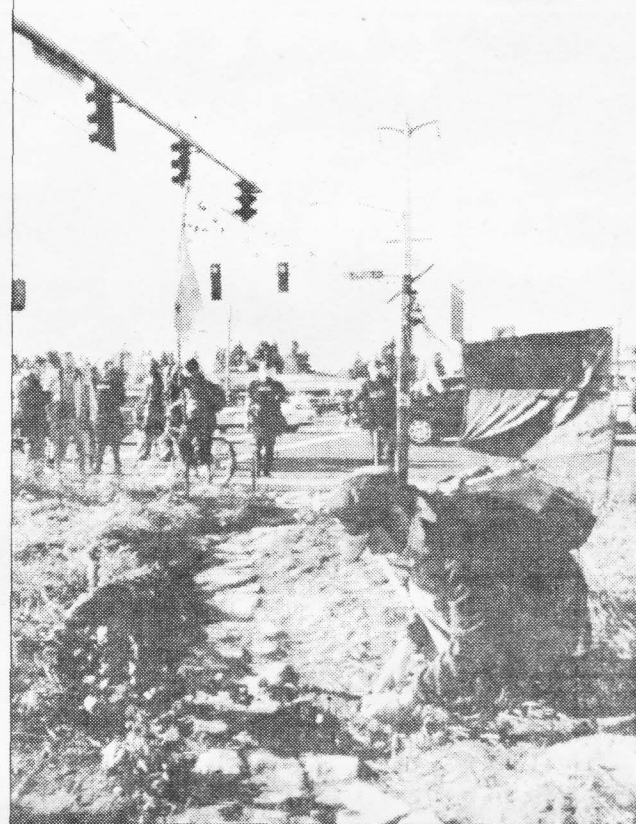
Consider our situation today: 450 billionaires own more wealth than half of all humanity. Wal-Mart is bigger than 163 countries. GE is bigger than Israel or Finland. Financial markets are about money making money, a departure from a time when the economy was driven by producing useful goods. Strip malls and gas stations are supplanting places of sustenance and community. Local workers are receiving minimum wage while the corporation CEO's are making huge profits.

David Morse, in a pamphlet titled "John Woolman and the Global Economy" (www.neym.org/pandbooklet.html) examines Woolman's economic analysis and compares it to the analysis spelled out in the streets of Seattle, Washington, DC, Prague and Quebec City today. He makes the connection between slavery and corporate globalism. The issues are complex. We witness the erosion of the environment and worker rights and the alien-

her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxury." Rev. 18:3. Right action in the religion of the empire consists of being good "slaves" to consumption. Earlier this year, a Texas Federal Reserve board member offered this solution to the ailing economy: "Buy a SUV."

In contrast, the Edenic New Jerusalem is found wherever people live the covenant/gospel life with God at the center of reality, "refusing to be beguiled by the allure of Babylon." The writer of Revelation speaks in a small, still voice, today drowned out by corporate advertising: "Come out of her my people." Rev. 18:4.

The central apocalyptic virtue, Brook observes, is resistance, resistance to the lie of reality presented by empire and the embrace of the truth offered by God. Truth is found in those who forgive, rather than seek vengeance. It is found in the ultimate testimony of Jesus to love one another as God loves us. It is found in the primitive church of Acts 2. It can be glimpsed in our community in the visions of the Olympia Food Coop, the



The final touches are added to the May Day garden

whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions...O ye children who have known the light and come forth. Leave everything which Jesus Christ does not own....

This is a revolutionary message. Although I stand in the Judeo-Christian tradition, this is a message found in other traditions as well. What can I do?

The place I call home not too long ago was being auctioned off to Wal-Mart. Fortunately, a few people stepped in on behalf of low income housing for the 100 or so individuals and families living on social security. I am slowly displacing my thirsty lawn with garden vegetables and fruit trees. The 250 square feet in which I live is more than adequate. I share the protein from my two illegal chickens (zoning laws) with my neighbors and they share the fruits of their gardens. I've eliminated the TV and in its place, I read and share conversation, albeit usually by cell phone. I buy groceries from the Co-op and clothes from Goodwill or Value Village. What I cannot find there, I get from locally owned business. I check out Orca or Browser's Books before I go to www.amazon.com. In market parlance, this lifestyle is not very efficient, but it is authentic. Unfortunately, I too am occasionally caught up in the lie, and I understand this is not for everybody.

Students today are faced with the same obstacles, and more, that the baby boomer generation faced in their time. It is convenient to be sucked in. How else could we have come from such fantastic ideals as world peace and resistance to discrimination and unjust wars following Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. to our infatuation with BMW's and the stock market that we nourish in the Babylonian empire of today?

"Wild spaces" are difficult to come by. There certainly is no economic reward. But I appreciate the forum these young people of faith provide in our time. Our response calls not only for individual simplicity, but a new covenant of collective, Spirit led action. This action, however, is profoundly threatening to the social order. If we challenge, organize and develop alternatives, we engage the principalities and powers. Are we up to the task of resistance? Am I? 

"Wild spaces" are difficult to come by. There certainly is no economic reward. But I appreciate the forum these young people of faith provide in our time.

ation of self from the community, consequences of an unrestrained global economy. A corporate-led media controls public opinion and democratic process. Morse rightly notes: "Having less and less basis for moral choice as consumers, we feel driven to make amoral choices. We know we are complicit, and this complicity becomes part of the inertia."

What does the book of Revelation have to do with this? Wes Howard Brook offered an illuminating discussion of the biblical symbols of Babylon and New Jerusalem in Revelation at the "Overturning the Tables" conference. He showed how these two realities exist side by side, here and now. Revelation describes these twin cities respectively as "surrogates for the empire of the great city and the empire of God."

Today we find Babylon in the new form of "imperial exploitation, the global corporate capital." "Kings of the earth have committed fornication with

Sustainable Community Roundtable, Sound Hours, Enterprise for Equity and other local acts of interdependence apart from empire.

The relevance of Woolman's insights to our own time is clear in this excerpt from the tenth chapter of "A Plea for the Poor":

...where that spirit works which loves riches, and in its working gathers wealth and cleaves to customs which have their root in self-pleasing - this spirit, thus separating from universal love...it still desires to defend the treasures thus gotten. This is like a chain, where the end of one link encloseth the end of another. The rising up of desire to obtain wealth is the beginning; this desire, being cherished, moves to action; and riches thus gotten please self; and while self has a life in them it desires to have them defended. Wealth is attended with power...and hence oppression, carried on with worldly policy and order, clothes itself with the name of justice and becomes like a seed of discord in the soul...so the seeds of war swell and sprout.... Oh! that we who declare against wars, and acknowledge our trust to be in God only, may walk in the light, and therein examine our foundation and motives in holding great estates! May we look upon our treasures, and the furniture of our houses, and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try



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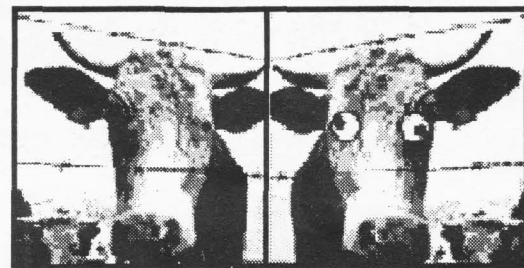
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Animal Sacrifices to the Globalization Gods ((= \$))



Globalization is giving rise to new slavery, new holocausts, new apartheid. It is a war against nature, women, children and the poor. A war which is transforming every community and home into a war zone. It is a war of monocultures against diversity, of big against small, of war time technologies against nature.

Vandana Shiva, 3.25.01
Violence of Globalization, The Hindu

Foot and mouth disease

- Foot and mouth is not a fatal disease, in two or three weeks the great majority of animals recover naturally. This disease poses no threat to human health.
- At the time of publication, the total number of animals slaughtered or identified for slaughter is 2,912,000.

Farmer Compensation

British farmers are compensated at full market value for slaughtered animals and for feed or other materials destroyed or seized as being contaminated.

Modern farming/meat processing techniques

- Industrial animal farming "is the fastest growing form of animal production -- responsible for nearly half of the world's meat..."
- Modern farming techniques "paved the way for the outbreak of the disease." Thousands of genetically uniform animals crammed into unhygienic warehouses, generating a feast for microbes..."
- Treating sick or injured animals is not cost effective.
- "Manure and slaughterhouse waste is reprocessed as feed.
- Meat is processed "in the presence of

blood, feces and other contagion agents.

- Long-distance transport of food creates endless opportunities for contamination."

Globalization

- While globalization is also responsible for infecting British livestock, globalization is also the main reason for the mass extermination of cows, sheep and pigs. Foreign markets will be closed to British agribusiness if the epidemic is not ended.
- If the UK chose vaccination instead of slaughter it would be unable to export livestock to markets in Europe and the US.
- ... food safety is ceasing to be a health or a consumer issue.

Insanity in maintaining global competitiveness

- The UK earns £630 million per year from meat and dairy exports.
- The foot and mouth epidemic costs are an estimated £12 billion.
- It will take more than 19 years of exports to match the cost of the damage done by the present "cull to eradicate" approach to foot and mouth. (That is if food is not also imported.)

The insanity of global food swapping

- Britain imported 61,400 metric tons of poultry meat from the Netherlands. That same year Britain exported 33,100 metric tons of poultry meat to the Netherlands.
- Britain also imported 240,000 metric tons of pork and 125,000 metric tons of lamb at the same time exporting 195,000 metric tons and 102,000

metric tons of pork and lamb.

Connection to the world

... what we are witnessing now is the nadir of western industrialized societies' total disregard for animals. The mass graves at Great Orton represent the triumph of greed over any other relationship we have to other forms of life. The almost complete absence of any serious debate about whether it is right to kill this kind of quantity of animals is, quite literally, unbelievable.

- "All the evidence shows that the most destructive predator on earth ... is the human race, whose pitiless exploitation of other species diminishes our claim to belong to a higher moral order."
- There "is a world of difference between life sustaining other forms of life and a wanton waste of life. Most cultures in human history have seen that distinction, hence the ethic of many hunting societies in which you kill for your need, not for your greed."
- "At what point do we discover some remnant of morality and recognize that our corner of the planet and its residents are not here simply for our sake?"
- "It's a terrible indictment of a culture that our accommodation with the market has so numbed us that we can see no other way of viewing the world and all its occupants."
- "Only in a twisted universe would mildly sick farm animals find themselves rounded up for premature slaughter."

Human Health

"Every day, 4,000 people in the U.S. suffer a heart attack" while the British spend \$24 billion annually to treat "diet-related diseases."

Alternatives

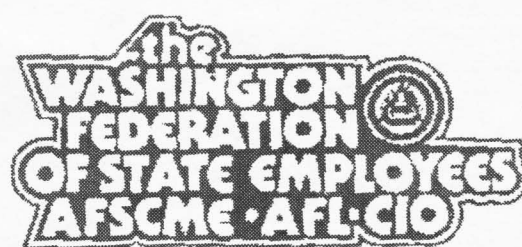
- "There is another way to produce meat, one which treats farms as living systems rather than assembly lines. It is no coincidence that mad cow has yet to be reported on organic farms throughout Europe which prohibit feeding of slaughterhouse waste, give animals access to the outdoors and emphasize good animal health..."
- "In Sweden, which has been able to prevent an outbreak with good animal husbandry, farmers have gained public trust and recaptured local markets."
- "In Germany, the food scare has sparked an about-face on farm policy. The chancellor replaced the agriculture minister with an environmentalist and declared that farm policy and practices must mesh with environmental and public health goals."
- "It is time to consider how we replace globalization with localization... It is the race for ever greater international trade and competitiveness that should go up in smoke, not our animals and the future for our farmers..."

Sources: Joan Smith, "To Be Killed for Having Flu Is As Sick As It Gets", Independent / UK; Peter A. Brandt and Samuel L. Jacobs, "Meat-Eaters Should All Go Cold Turkey", Los Angeles Times; Madeleine Bunting, "Foot & Mouth Disease's Panic Slaughter of Animals is Utterly Barbaric", Guardian/UK; Olivia Ward, "Paying the Price of Progress", Toronto Star; Naomi Klein, "Sacrificial Lambs on Europe's Altar", Toronto Globe & Mail; Caroline Lucas, "The Crazy Logic of the Continental Food Swap", Independent / UK; Brian Haliwell and Dani Niernberg, "Listen to This Wake-Up Call From Farm Animals", International Herald Tribune

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Guatemala

Local Students' Tuition Helps Boost Literacy

Tristan Baurick

Above Lake Atitlan, in Guatemala's highlands, the Probigua Mobile Library heaves itself upward along a winding dirt road.

The heavy-loaded bus pushes a thick wake of dust as it passes terraced coffee plantations, miles of cornfields, and a few rigged-up shanties that serve as family homes.

Besides its usual cargo, the Mobile Library carries two dozen Puget Sound residents enrolled in Probigua's Spanish Language Academy.

At a small school, just past an abandoned colonial church that saw its better days a century ago, the bus rumbles to a stop.

Out steps Rigoberto Zamora Charuc, the barrel-chested apostle of the printed page and founder of Probigua, an organization devoted to boosting literacy in a nation where only half of all adults can read. Charuc brought along the group of 24 language students to show them what they're tuition dollars are going to support.

Charuc's bushy black beard parts into a wide smile, welcoming a crowd of school children racing for the bus. They are a loud and rambunctious group. Judging the excitement in the air, one might think the kids have mistaken the Mobile Library for the Ice Cream Truck, but they know full well that today's treat is a bounty of colorful books.

Books are a rare sight for these children, as are all the basic supplies of an elementary education. Many of these students share pencils whittled down to the metal casing that once held an eraser. Paper is so scarce that students must erase full composition books and reuse them.

In Guatemala most public schools receive no government support to build libraries or purchase textbooks. Parents, many of whom earn the minimum wage of \$18 a week, cannot afford to buy books and supplies.

Lacking adequate support, many students never learn to read and drop out after a few years. According to Charuc, 33 to 36 percent of Guatemalan children never start first grade. Among those

who do, about 35 percent drop out before starting the sixth grade. Without an education, many young Guatemalans get an early start on a lifetime of manual labor jobs, when they can find them.

Growing up poor in an indigenous Cakchiquel family, Charuc was all too aware of this grim reality.

"I worked in the fields with my father, and my destiny was sealed," he said through and interpreter. "Like many children I was without toys, very introverted, and marked by poverty."

At age 15 Charuc was rescued by a scholarship to a Catholic Seminary in Solala. Here began a love for books and a lifelong commitment to literacy.

After graduating from college Charuc worked as teacher, but he yearned to do more. He dreamed of founding rural libraries across Guatemala.

"I am convinced that Guatemala needs a good level of education to aspire to be a better nation," Charuc said. "Education is the fundamental basis for the development of the individual and the country as a collective."

It really makes a difference that Charuc is from this community. If it had been a mission, or if the Peace Corps came in here, they wouldn't show the respect that Probigua does

Since 1992 Charuc has put his beliefs to work through Probigua. Starting small, Charuc founded his first library in his home. Now Probigua maintains eighteen school libraries, mostly in rural areas, and an on-going scholarship program giving many committed students a chance to attend high school. The Mobile Library, the flagship of the organization, makes about ten trips a week, bringing supplies to schools and allowing children to explore an exciting collection of illustrated stories and reference books.

"I worked very hard with my father in the cultivation of coffee. Because of this, I work hard with Probigua and never get tired. I have a strong desire to do what I can, so the children may have what I never had."

The work is paying off, Charuc said,

with drop out rates declining and attendance increasing in areas where Probigua operates.

Much of what funds these successes comes from the tuition paid by students of Probigua's Spanish Language Academy. Located in the old colonial town of Antigua, the school enrolls over 1,200 students a year, each paying a \$90 fee that gives them a week of Spanish instruction and Guatemala the financial support it needs to fight illiteracy.

This trip into the highlands is one of the extra perks of studying at Probigua's Academy.

As they tour the school, the language students snap photos of kids hamming it up for the camera or try out newly learned phrases.

"Tu madre... eso... camisa?", asks one Seattle woman of a little girl, pointing to the traditional blouse the girl wears.

"Si," she giggles back, adding proudly that her mother also made her hand-woven skirt.

Eventually the group wanders to the newly established library where multiple copies of new textbooks sit in large piles. As the students peruse the stacks they find many of the books are specifically geared for Guatemalan schools. One social studies text explores the nation's many ethnic groups—from the diverse Mayan cultures to the African-descended Garifunas of the north coast.

"[Charuc] has worked well with the school to see what they need," said Evergreen student Branden Wilson. "It really makes a difference that [Charuc] is from this community. If it had been a mission, or if the Peace Corps came in here, they wouldn't show the respect that Probigua does."

Former teacher Jill Bojanowski, now a graduate student at the UW, says she was impressed with how happy the chil-



Young student at a Probigua-sponsored school and a proud owner of a new pencil

dren were here, and at other Probigua-sponsored schools she visited.

"I've worked in several American schools, with both rich and poor children, and I've never seen children so happy and pleasant," she said. "It seems that these children are more conscious of what they do have, rather than what they don't have."

Both Wilson and Bojanowski say they enjoy the one-on-one instruction and family home-stay the language academy provides, but say that this trip has been the most rewarding part of the Probigua experience. For Wilson, it illustrated why he chose Probigua over the many other language schools in Guatemala.

"This is the reason I decided to study at Probigua," he said. "Other schools use tuition as a source of revenue, but tuition at Probigua actually works to improve the condition of schools like this one."

**Rita and Clarice Wirkala served as translators during interviews with Mr. Charuc.*

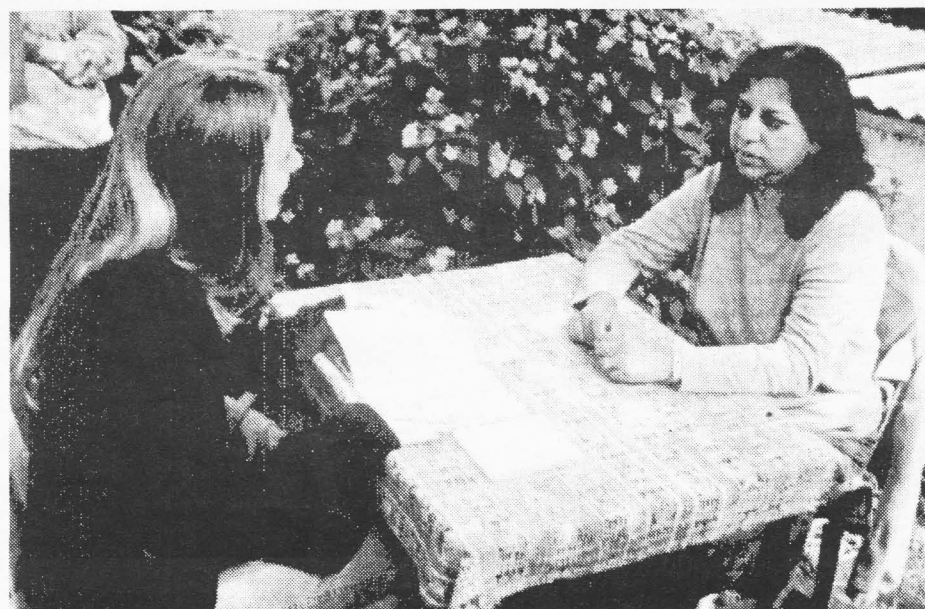
Additional Information

>Visit Probigua's website at: <http://probigua.conexion.com>

>To assist Probigua's efforts, contact:
Soundaid
2902 SW Fairmount Blvd.
Portland, OR 97201
Phone: 888.881.8241
E-Mail: soundaid@teleport



Students gather at the Probigua Mobile Library



At the Language Academy, a teacher and student go over the day's lesson.

"Spring Thaw" Friendship Tour of Cuba

David Zink

My son and I had an unforgettable experience for two weeks in March. Let me tell you about it.

The 6-hour express flight from Vancouver, B.C. down to Varadero was crowded. Varadero is a popular vacation destination for Canadians these days. We made it through customs quick & easy, then piled into a hippified old school bus, which took our tour group to the Internationale Hotel out on the beach.

The first thing that struck me in arriving in Cuba was the tropical warmth. We spent the first couple days taking it easy, acclimatizing and lazing around the beach. Then our tour bus -- a newer one in much better shape -- took us east a couple hours to Santa Clara, where we stopped at the Che Guevara memorial & museum.

The Cubans are building up their industrial base. In Santa Clara we visited a factory that makes "atmosphere-friendly" HCFC-free refrigerators in harmony with Montreal Protocol standards (they use isobutane instead), fans, and other household appliances. The products are sold at cost for domestic needs, and at world prices outside the country. The factory employs some 2,000 workers, including 870 women and 186 engineers. Workers put in 40-44 hour weeks. After wages are paid, 90% of profits are allocated to the state, for health, education, etc., and 10% to improving working conditions and paying incentive bonuses to the most productive workers.

On the road to Trinidad de Cuba, on the south coast of the island, we passed through lush tree fern and bamboo forests. Trinidad is a fascinating old town with narrow, cobblestone streets. Built in the early 1500s, it's been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In Trinidad, we visited a seniors' center called the Grandparents' Club. After a briefing and answering some questions about how the elderly are cared for in Cuba, they sang us a few folk songs, then asked us to sing one! We responded by singing them a hybridized Canadian-U.S. version of "This Land is Your Land". These folks are old enough to clearly remember life before the revolution. Somebody asked whether they preferred things the way they were before, or now after the changes enacted since the revolution. They had a good laugh about that one. "No comparacion!" -- life is incomparably better now. "We're not perfect, we've made some mistakes in Cuba. But we'd rather put up with the errors of the Revolution than the blessings of Capitalism!"

Then we went to Havana for a few days. My first impression of the city was that it needed some paint -- lots of paint -- and some sprucing up. It was in this city that I got a clearer idea of the deprivation caused by the U.S. embargo. Yet, in the midst of all this, the people seemed very upbeat -- much more so than in the run-down areas of some U.S. cities I've been in. Many decrepit old buildings were being fixed up. Air quality downtown at street level was pretty bad, but much better than in Mexico City. Cubans are struggling to make do with limited resources in the face of a harsh reality imposed by the embargo. After the hard times of 1993-94, when the Soviet block crumbled, and construction projects often went undone for lack of building supplies, Cuba decided to go into tourism in order to bring in some hard currency.

The tourist industry and the introduction of the U.S. dollar into the Cuban economy has brought changes to the island since my first visit back in 1990. There are

more panhandlers now, although they're about the best dressed and, to all appearances, well-fed ones I've seen anywhere, including Seattle. Not nearly as many as I've encountered in Mexico, Honduras, & other places in Latin America, nor are they in the desperate straits that beggars are in Mexico. I saw no indication of the sort of malnutrition so obvious throughout most of Latin America.

In Havana we visited the National Center for Scientific Research, which, among other things, is producing vaccines which are sent to Latin America and Africa, as well as some developed countries, under license and quality assurance and quality control ("QA/QC") of the World Health Organization (WHO). World opinion is growing that the three major agricultural products of Cuba -- coffee, tobacco, and sugar cane -- are bad for health, so those

readily available. The U.S. is waging an economic war against a people for the crime of daring to build a better, cooperative system and way of life. It's a modern-day David vs. Goliath type situation. Even the pro-business U.S. Chamber of Commerce admitted that this embargo is "behavior unworthy of a great nation." For the most part, I feel that the Cuban people, and their system, have their priorities straight. It makes me wonder how well North Americans would be managing under similar conditions, given the capitalist system's wealth disparities. And it made me wonder what we North Americans could accomplish with a socialist system and a decent set of priorities.

We stayed at comfortable and clean hotels. I heard a variety of languages around tourist areas in Cuba. Spanish, of course, but also French, German, and Portuguese.



products are getting more difficult to market. That's why vaccines are growing in importance in bringing some sorely needed hard currency into the country. The institute produces the only vaccine for Meningitis B in the world. Epidemics among children in the U.S. allowed some limited marketing of this in the U.S. The Cubans see this as a great victory -- a "crack in the wall". They're currently working on vaccines for cholera, dengue, and AIDS.

Cuba is known for its high standards of public health. I drank tap water with no ill effects. Don't try that in most of Latin America, or you're likely to get a case of something you'd rather not. It has a very advanced healthcare delivery system, ranging from small family clinics in the local community, to polyclinics, hospitals, and national research institutes. Physicians and

You hear British and Canadian accents, but very few people with American accents. This is a beautiful country. I was glad to experience it before the hordes of tourists from the U.S. discover it. I hope they do; yet I also hope that Cuba can avoid losing its hard-earned advances. In Cuba, once you pay (cheap) rent on a house for 20 years, you own the place. Although Cubans don't earn high wages or salaries, when you add up some of the social benefits like education, health care, subsidized rent, etc., it adds up to more like \$4,000 per month.

In Cuba, 40% of farmland is owned by cooperatives, 40% remains in private ownership, and 20% is state property. Organic methods are the norm. We visited the Republic of Chile Cooperative Farm (named in honor of that country's attempt,

From the time it became clear that the Cuban revolution was not in the interests of capitalism, the U.S. government has sought to isolate and undo it.

medical services are readily accessible.

Here are a few statistics that reflect the sort of progress socialist Cuba has made by adopting socialist methods: According to UNICEF, the infant mortality rate in Cuba fell from 60 deaths per thousand in 1958, to 7.9 in 1996, roughly half that of Washington, DC. Average Cuban life expectancy is 75 years, far ahead of the Third World average of 57 years. According to the World Almanac and the Europa Yearbook, the age-adjusted death rate in Cuba is currently 7.2 per thousand -- much lower than her Latin American neighbors. By way of contrast, in New York City the death rate is 9.6 per thousand, and in Washington State it is 7.6 per thousand. The overall U.S. death rate is 8.7 per thousand.

The embargo is taking its toll. Many essential school and medical supplies aren't

brought to ruin by a U.S. government-sponsored coup and the ensuing reign of terror of the Pinochet regime, to start building a socialist society in that country) in rural Pinar del Rio province, a few hours southwest from Havana. The cooperative was formed when small landholders got together and, with encouragement from the new revolutionary government, voluntarily decided to pool land and equipment. In the U.S., we hear nothing of people like Alberto Fernandez, the 37 year-old head of the cooperative, who was elected by the coop's general assembly. About 200 "farming associates" put in 40-hour weeks on a variety of work brigades here, raising tobacco, fruit, vegetables, cattle for dairy products, and honey. (Cuban tobacco, being pesticide-free, is about the healthiest in the world. -- one reason why Cuban cigars are in such high demand in North

America). If somebody decides to work more, they get a bonus. The cooperative has 718 residents, a school, pharmacy, clinic, barber shop, garage, a cooperative credit & services bank (quite similar to a credit union), and a ration store that sells groceries and other necessities.

When I asked why the cooperative doesn't take some of the land out of tobacco production and start producing hemp as a source of fiber to help meet the paper shortage, they told me that this had been discussed and debated at length, as usual, in a lively collective meeting. They decided that right now it was more important to produce crops that would bring more hard currency into the country. One tobacco field can bring in a lot of Canadian milk powder, and right now that is more important than the paper shortage. 50%+1 must vote to approve a proposal.

The only people I saw on this trip who were wearing tattered clothes were a few farm workers. No big surprise: I wear beat-up clothes when gardening too.

What is reality in Cuba is still a dream in the rest of Latin America. I had no sense of any oppressive dictatorship. Given the harsh realities of continuing U.S. hostility and harassment, Cuba is a surprisingly free country, with a lively press and broadcasting. Nothing like Guatemala City, where sullen soldiers armed with M16s stood at street corners. The eyes of the corporate media scrutinize Cuba for the slightest excuse for intervention. Yet has anyone ever seen the police in Cuba beating up workers or students during a demonstration, shooting rubber bullets at them, or throwing tear gas at them? In Cuba, the leaders demonstrate alongside the people. Has anybody ever heard of a reporter being beaten or assassinated in Cuba, as they are in Colombia, Peru, or El Salvador?

Cuba has no paramilitary death squads killing its citizens for defending their human rights. From the time it became clear that the Cuban revolution was not in the interests of capitalism, the U.S. government has sought to isolate and undo it. This continues to be the case. That's what's behind the varied forms of harassment perpetrated by the U.S. against the island. That's what's behind the exclusion of Cuba from international meetings such as the Quebec Forum. Yet the FTAA talks aren't even discussing the most flagrant human rights violations in oppressive dictatorships like Colombia, Peru, Honduras, and Bolivia.

When we hear about Cuba in the U.S. media, it generally focuses on Fidel Castro. We get the picture of Castro as a megalomaniac dictator. We don't hear much about Fidel being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by a member of the Norwegian parliament, for helping other nations despite the hardships of U.S. sanctions. Although it is a small, poor country, Cuba still has managed to send doctors, engineers, and aid workers to developing countries.

We don't hear anything about Mitchell Valdez, the director of the Cuban Neurological Research Center, and member of the National Assembly of People's Power. Nor do we hear about the other vibrant & spirited leaders of the nation, like Felipe Perez Roque, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The leadership of Cuba is young, bright, energetic, and from all I saw and heard, firmly committed to building a better way of life. U.S. business interests and their government are upset about Cuba being socialist. And it looks like Cuba is going to be increasingly socialist. The Cuban leadership is striving to pass down to their children levels of social justice, equality, and citizen participation rarely attained by any other society.

Strange as it may sound to somebody raised on a steady diet of U.S. corporate media, Cuba is far more democratic than

(Continued next page)



most countries in Latin America. In some ways, it's even more democratic than the U.S. currently is. Democracy is a part of daily life there. In Cuba, you vote for the head of your cooperative, and decisions are made in assembly. Most workers belong to unions, leadership is elected, and unions are much more a part of the ongoing decision-making, planning, and daily workplace operations and conditions than they are in North America. People see the government as their government. (When was the last time you recalled or elected the management of your workplace?) Unions also have resorts for their members.

But what about the one-party system in Cuba? That sure doesn't sound very democratic!

First, it was the U.S. that installed Batista in power and effectively killed the Cuban multi-party system. There is more diversity within the Cuban Communist Party than there is, say, between the U.S. Democratic and Republican parties. There is a saying in Cuba that reveals something important in understanding that country: "With the revolution, everything and anything is possible. Against the revolution, nothing."

Other places we visited included a rum factory, the Cuban Neurological Sciences Institute in Havana, and a "Palacio de Computacion" (computer school and center). All these facilities had something in common: I wouldn't mind working in any of them. They were clean, modern, and airy -- nothing like the sweatshops so common in other countries in the third world.

I found most people warm and friendly. They display an infectious joy in living, and are ready to share. They, and the society they are building, make a pretty good match. I found it refreshing to see that the Cubans are building a cooperative and fair system led by a people's party that is governing in the people's interest.

The ruling class in America doesn't like the "inappropriate" example being set by Cuba. Here is a nation that dares to stand up against the dictates of global corporate power and build a society where the needs of the people, and their environment, take priority over the needs of capitalism. It's a clear and powerful example to the oppressed countries of the developing world. And it's an example to many in the "developed" world who yearn for something better than the alienated and stressful rat-race way of life under capitalism. I think that most people would rather share this world in joy and beauty, instead of watching as it's destroyed by a rapacious economic system.

Cuba has all the natural beauty of Maui. It is a lush, tropical island, studded with palm trees, but without the jumbo shopping malls, huge parking lots, congestion, and urban sprawl becoming all too common in Hawaii. Some feel that if Cuba went back to capitalism, it would become more like Hawaii. If this were true, it would be bad enough. The capitalist mode of development has been bad news for



Hawaii and the Hawaiians. Hawaiian residents work long hours and waste a lot of time in traffic jams to go to work at hotels and shopping malls. But it's **not** true. If Cuba reverted to capitalism, it would become much more like Mexico or Honduras than Hawaii. Cuba would still have rationing, but it would be rationing by price, which would erode social equality and fairness, and the social safety net would be lost. A few -- the rich -- would make out like bandits, but the majority would lose much. The average Mexican, Honduran, or Haitian may not have the proverbial "pot to pee in" -- but they do have Macdonald's!

Everywhere we went on the island, we found music and dancing. In general, Cubans are ready to party and dance at the drop of a hat. At the Pinar del Rio School of the Arts, we were treated to performances in a range of different musical and dance styles. Like all education in Cuba, this school is free. Each province has a school of fine arts, and the best graduates have the opportunity to continue in Havana. When it was time for us to go, I thanked the students and faculty by saying "Creativity is thriving on this island. I can see it in the eyes of these talented and graceful young people. Beauty in the spirit of the musical arts is flowering in this land of socialist freedom. Thank you for the wonderful time we've spent with you."

Okay, so if I like Cuba so much, then why don't I pack up my stuff and move down there? It's tempting. Many have. What's holding me back? The simple fact that, as long as trans-national corporations rule the world, the U.S. will continue to act as the schoolyard bully, and gum up the works for any people that make an effort to build a better way of life, and build a system that respects human dignity and environmental health more than corporate profits. With a cooperative society, our country could be a blessing to this world. Our work is right here. We can do much more to nudge our country in a positive direction right here than we could down in the Free Territory of the Americas.

We live in a world where abundance and justice are technologically possible, but where the continuation of the capitalist economic system guarantees only worsening alienation, misery, and environmental problems. In my opinion, good leadership consists of providing correct answers to our problems. And capitalism is out of answers.

We already have the numbers. We need to unite and organize to make our hopes and dreams of a new and cooperative society a reality in America and the world. Freed from the grip of the corporate oligarchy and used properly, the wealth-creating technology could help lift this world into a new golden age.

The 18 members of our tour group were a varied lot, and included yuppies from Bellevue, a turban-wearing Punjabi-Canadian liberation theologian Sikh, a genteel Englishman, quite conservative in outlook, a Re-Evaluation Counselor and

retired 3rd-grade teacher from Tacoma, an alternative media activist from Toronto, a retired college math teacher from Kent, a librarian and natural history writer from northern Ontario, Canada, and assorted others. For all the differences, the group gelled well & developed a spirit of solidarity. Every evening at about 6:30, we held a "soiree", where we could discuss, over Cuban beer (good stuff!) and rum, what we saw and learned that day, and what was coming up the next day.

It felt odd to be in a society so different, then switch on the TV to find, along with Cuban stations, U.S. commercial stations. This openness has some drawbacks. Dissatisfaction with embargo-caused shortages is aggravated by the portrayal of affluence in the sit-coms and other programming carried on U.S. channels. More than half of all Cubans have been born since 1959 and grew up with the advances won by the revolution. Many take their health care & education system for granted -- they've always had these things.

U.S. TV carries a distorted picture of life in our country. It creates an impression that this is a land full of goodies here for the taking. A more accurate picture of life in the U.S.A. -- the shabby state of our "mangled care" health care system, mounting consumer debt, the gnawing, paycheck-to-paycheck insecurity that most people face in our country, and the intensifying alienation and homelessness in our culture -- this message just doesn't come through. It should come as no surprise, then, that most Cubans who now come to the USA do so for perceived economic reasons, not out of any political repression. Many who come here soon regret their decision and wind up wanting to go back home.

We spent the last two days of our tour back at Varadero. Once more, I was struck by the contrast between the reality of Cuba and the image fabricated by the U.S. media. Sometimes I wish I was an artist. The beautiful and free-spirited ladies at the beach, hair proudly flowing in the gentle sea breeze, were making a simple, silent, yet eloquent statement about freedom and gender equality. I wondered, how long would it take for them to get arrested for daring to go top-free in public here in the U.S.?

To learn about the reality of Cuba, there's no substitute for going down and experiencing it for yourself. The tour was superlative. Joyce, the tour leader, has a rare talent for coordinating all the activities. Alex, our translator, helped make the tour a fun learning experience. We kept pretty busy visiting some interesting places. But scheduling was always loose enough for us to have plenty of free time to go wherever we wanted. If you're not very fluent in Spanish -- and even if you think you are -- I wouldn't hesitate for a second in recommending Friendship Tours.

With help from Norman Stockwell, a Madison, Wisconsin-based radio journalist who has traveled to Cuba three times.

A "Personality Cult" in Cuba?

You can see posters of Che Guevara all over Latin America, often quickly stenciled on walls by revolutionaries in repressive countries, but with open veneration in Cuba. Who was this man?

ERNESTO 'CHE' GUEVARA was an Argentinian doctor who roamed around South America on motorcycle and was deeply touched by the poverty and misery he saw. He decided to dedicate his life to eradicate these evils. He ended up in Guatemala where he witnessed a CIA-led coup against the mildly-reformist President Jacob Arbenz. Later he joined up with a kindred spirit -- Fidel Castro -- in Mexico.

In Cuba, as part of Castro's guerrilla army, Che was known for his searing intellect, bravery and military prowess. Rising quickly to the rank of *Comandante*, he and Fidel soon became the heart and soul of the Revolution. A self-taught Marxist, and an important political theorist in his own right, he helped build the movement that eventually succeeded in bringing down the hated Batista dictatorship. After the victory of the insurrection, Che worked a few years as an administrator in the new revolutionary government, and made some memorable speeches at the UN. In 1965, he took leave to go to the Congo and then to Bolivia to lend a hand to the rebels in those countries.

In October, 1967 he was captured and murdered by the Bolivian Armed Forces while CIA operatives watched. An icon was born.

Che is a modern hero, a powerful symbol of selfless dedication to the poor and the oppressed. The Cubans view Che as a true renaissance man. He excelled as a doctor, teacher, journalist, photographer, banker, minister of industry, skilled negotiator representing Cuba at world summits, and, of course, as a skilled military commander and guerrilla fighter.

The lesson of Che is a lesson of hope and dedication. Throughout struggles with adversity, like his lifelong asthma, to the military campaigns in Guatemala, Cuba, the Congo and finally Bolivia, Che always kept his goal of a socialist world in front of him. He was ever optimistic and single-minded in his purpose.

When I visited Nicaragua with the Pastors for Peace 15 years ago, many household shrines had two pictures: Che & Jesus.

Although we saw plenty of posters, shirts, and billboards depicting Jose Marti, Che Guevara, and some other revolutionary leaders, I saw no indications of any personality cult around Fidel Castro. Respect yes, but no idolatry.

Letters, Announcements, Etc.

The petition is a legal document calling for the election of 24 "freeholders" for the purpose of drafting a home rule county charter to be submitted to the voters for their approval.

We, the people of Thurston County, under Article 11, Section 5 of the Washington State Constitution, have the right to draft and adopt our own "home rule" county charter. Possible changes to the structure of county government under home rule include county initiative and referendum, changing the size of the board of commissioners, and a more efficient and effective government structure.

Ireland's "Best Traditional Band" Visits Olympia

June 6th performance by Danu to benefit Climate Solutions

Considered by many to be the finest traditional Irish band touring today, Danu features some of the tightest and most spectacular individual and ensemble playing in modern Celtic music. On Wednesday, June 6th at 8pm, Danu will appear at the Capitol Theater in Olympia to play a special benefit concert for

Climate Solutions and the Energy Outreach Center. Two local acts, the Columbia Street Seisium Band and Slieve Loughane Irish Dancers, will open the show. Tickets are \$10 for adults and teens, \$5 for ages 8-12, and will be available at Traditions Fair Trade, Rainy Day Records, and at the door.

Climate Solutions is a Olympia-based organization working to address the urgent need for action on global warming, build the political and popular support to affect policy changes, and provide citizens practical means to make a difference. Formed through the merger of Atmosphere Alliance and Energy Outreach Center in 1998, Climate Solutions has emerged as one of the region's leading sources of ideas and inspiration on ways to act decisively and creatively towards addressing the global warming crisis. Produced by Numina Productions and the Olympia Film Society, Danu's performance is co-sponsored by Clancy's Columbia Street Public House and Fish Brewing Company. For more information, contact Climate Solutions at (360) 352-1763.

PFLAG's Meeting

**Sunday, June 10th at 2pm
United Methodist Church**

We will be having a guest speaker from UCAN, someone whose life has been affected by the HIV virus. Please bring donations of food for UCAN. They

need items such as rice, cereal, heat-and-eat meals with little or no preparation.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Checkpoint: a documentary about the Palestinian and Israeli Conflict

**Thursday, June 14, 7pm
Traditions Cafe
\$5 to \$25 sliding scale**

This film, by local film makers Tom Wright and Teresa Saliba, explains what has led to the collapse of the 1993 Oslo Accords between Israel and Palestine. This tragedy is unfolding before us now. Its violence fills the news every night. Palestinians and Israelis talk in the film about conditions in Jerusalem, the expansion of the Israeli settlements and the forgotten refugees. They speak about their vision for a just peace. The film

**OLYMPIA
PRIDE**

**PARADE &
CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 16TH**

**MARCH: 12 NOON AT
CAPITOL STEPS**

**CELEBRATE: 1PM IN
SYLVESTER PARK**

makers will be present to talk about the film and events that have occurred since it was completed.

Funds raised will go to support Media Island, a non-profit organization that provides both resources and networking assistance for political activists. For more information, visit our website at www.mediaisland.org; stop by our space at 816 South Adams near the Olympia library or call us at 352-8526.

The Olympia Free School A Community Education Network

June Free School Calendar

Know of an event or workshop? Call 705-8882 or send an email to freeschool@disinfo.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Freeschool is what you make of it. It is a networking tool for community organizations and individuals open to people of all ages and backgrounds that want to learn in a free and open environment. If you are looking to explore a topic with others, share skills or teach others freeschool is for you. Any questions or submissions please call 705-8882 or email freescchool@disinfo.net . Also see our website for updates and skill share list www.olympiafree.org/freeschool					Summer Give away 7pm	Appropriate Technology Series: Rocket Stoves 12pm Hike: Chehalis River
Edible and medicinal and Native Plants	Organic Gardening 4:30-6:30pm	5	Bike Repair 4-6pm EPIC Meets 2pm	7	8	Appropriate Technology Series: Rocket Stoves 12pm Birding by ear
Freeschool Group Meeting 1:30pm	Spanish 5-7pm	Labor Discussion 8pm	Bike Repair 4-6pm	14	Safeplace Open House 4pm	Appropriate Technology Series: 12pm
17	Organic Gardening 4:30-6:30pm	19	20	BHAS Annual Picnic	22	Appropriate Technology Series: 12pm
24	Spanish 5-7pm	26	27	28	29	Appropriate Technology Series: 12pm

Freeschool Group Meeting: at 1:30pm; At Sylvester Park; Contact #705-8882; This is freeschool's monthly vegan potluck. During this meeting we discuss future freeschool classes, help develop next month's calendar and eat great food. It is a great time to explore ideas on classes you would like to take and arrange it with the people who can teach you. This is also a great time to get involved because our different organizing groups will all be present. Don't worry logistics will be discussed in the second half of meeting, so if logistics don't interest you make sure you show up early on in the meeting.

Summer Give-Away: At 7:00 p.m.; At 705 Lybarger St SE; corner of lybarger and 7th. Phone Contact: Gray 753-3004 or page 786-3743; Topic / Issue: Food & Agriculture. This is a gathering, not a get drunk and dance all night party, although there might be a little of both. The intention of this event is for us to recognize the surplus in our lives, the extra canned goods left over from winter, the new summer crops coming up, the music we never listen to, the cloths we like but want to see on others, that sort of thing. The intention is to give without expectations of receiving. This is also a time for us to honor the new season, definitely summer, with sharing food, future hopes of projects and travels, that sort of thing. For directions, feel free to call, and please do anyway since we want to know how many people to expect.

Appropriate Technology Series: Rocket Stoves W/ Jesse 753-3004 at 705 Lybarger St SE; The rest of this series will be held at Sylvester Park downtown. Topic cover will be based on attendees but will be based as followed (16th) Eco-building, (23rd) solar panels, (30th) bio-diesel. Call 705-8882 for more info

Edible, medicinal and Native Plants: W/ Gray 753-3004 TBA
Organic Gardening: W/ Arian 705-8882; At Olympia Community Garden 4:30pm- 6:30pm direction: Follow State or 4th to Central turn south and follow until 13th which is right before dead end, turn right it will be a half a block on your left.

Bike Repair: W/ Drew 705-8882; Will be held at The Evergreen State College bike shop from 4-6pm
EPIC (Evergreen Political Information Center) Meets: Time 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.; At TESC Library Room 3500; w/ Brian Allison 704 5358 EPIC meets every week for discussion of radical politics, current issues, activism, empowerment, and education. All are welcome.

Spanish: W/ Beth 451-1852; At 5-7pm; At Bigelow Park; directions follow state/4th to Puget turn north on Puget, follow about one block on left can't miss it.

Labor Discussion: At Olympia World News, upstairs at 8pm.

Safeplace Holds Raffle for Trip to Hawaii

Safeplace is holding its annual Believe in Magic raffle campaign, with proceeds to benefit Safeplace's Client Assistance Fund. Each ticket purchaser will be entered into a **June 15th** drawing to win round-trip airfare and six nights accommodations on Maui, Hawaii for two adults. The Believe in Magic raffle is co-sponsored by Global Express Travel and Cruise. The raffle tickets are available at Safeplace's business office at 314 Legion Way, or by calling (360) 786-8754. Each \$2 ticket purchase will provide economic assistance to survivors of domestic violence. Safeplace advocates can be reached 24 hours a day at (360) 754-6300 or toll free at 1-800-364-1776.

Roll Your Own Black Out

The first day of summer

June 21, Thurs eve,

7 - 10 pm worldwide

In protest of George W. Bush's energy policies and lack of emphasis on efficiency, conservation and alternative fuels, there will be a voluntary rolling blackout on the first day of Summer, June 21 at 7 pm - 10 pm in any time zone (this will roll it across the planet).

It's a simple protest and a symbolic act. Turn out your lights from 7 pm - 10 pm (your local time) on June 21. Unplug whatever you can unplug in your house. Light a candle for the Sun, kiss, make love, play games, tell ghost stories, do something instead of watching television, have fun in the dark.

**BEFORE YOU
FORGET,
SUBSCRIBE!
SEE PAGE 2**



WORKS IN PROGRESS

FREE

JUNE 2001

MAY DAY

2001



photo by Tristan Baurick

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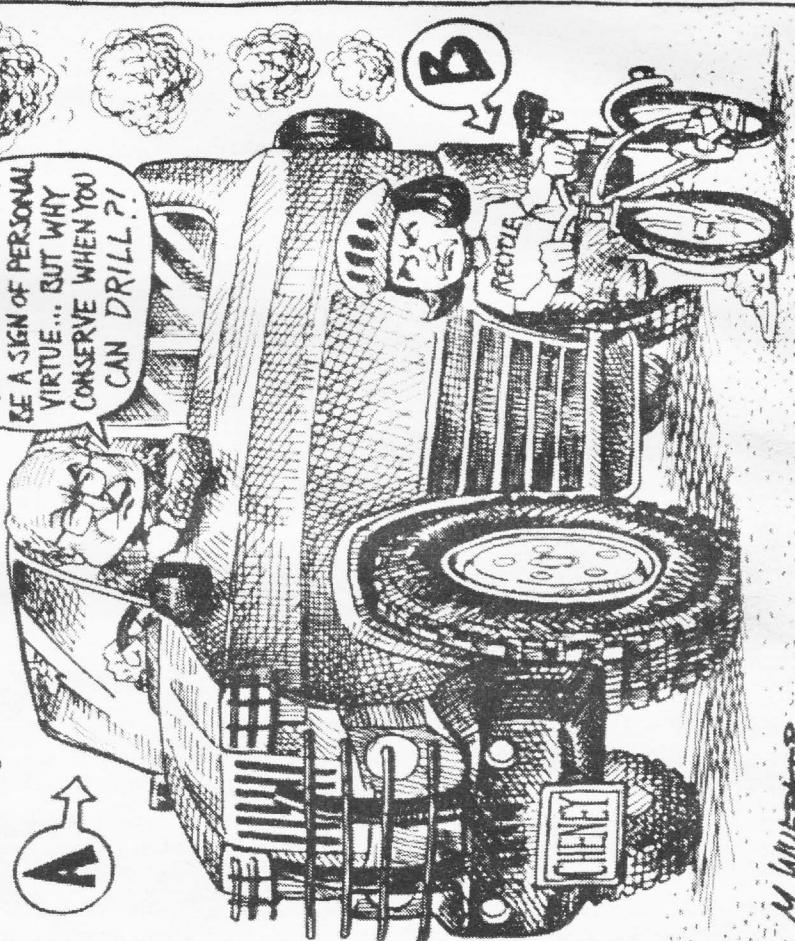
13
Cuba Friendship Tour

LINT TRAP

THIS WEEK'S BRAIN TEASER

QUICK! WHO'S THE "CONSERVATIVE"
IN THIS PICTURE...

CONSERVATION MAY
BE A SIGN OF PERSONAL
VIRTUE... BUT WHY
CONSERVE WHEN YOU
CAN DRILL?!



M. WUGGER

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507